



POLLUTION PREVENTION & THE BOTTOM LINE

JULY 1996

WORDS & WISDOM FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

ALL ABOUT NEEAT

Are you a printer? metal plater or finisher? Does your business manufacture computers or electronic equipment? Do you work for a city or a town? Have questions about pollution prevention & control strategies? Federal environmental requirements? Call the NEEATeam. The Team is providing these industries and municipalities with information on regulatory requirements, pollution prevention opportunities and current EPA Region I, New England issues. The phone call is free. Services are free. And confidential. We're at 1.800.90NEEAT (1.800.906.3328).

WHAT'S NEWS

Environmental awareness workshops for NH municipal officials

Staff from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the NEEATeam's Jack Healey are offering environmental awareness workshops for NH municipal managers and elected officials. The agenda is based on the results of a "needs survey" completed by municipal officials last summer. The workshop will:

- present municipal and elected officials with the environmental information they need to plan and budget;
- address the benefits and importance of pollution prevention; and
- increase their awareness of current environmental issues.

Workshops will be offered in Keene on July 16 and in Lyme on July 17. For more information call Jack Healey of the NEEATeam.

Electronics update

EPA is working with the Gordon Institute at Tufts University to research and analyze data gaps for managing end-of-life electronic equipment. This effort, sponsored by EPA's Common Sense Initiative, will define the problems associated with electronics in the waste stream by identifying current routes and volumes of disposal, analyzing the risks to public health, and identifying opportunities to recover valuable material resources from the waste stream.

EPA RELEASES CATALOGUE OF VOLUNTARY POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAMS

A descriptive catalogue of EPA's 28 voluntary partnership programs is now available. The catalogue describes each of the programs and provides mail and telephone contacts for them. The voluntary programs offer a variety of ways to conserve water and energy, and reduce greenhouse gases, toxic emissions, solid wastes, indoor air pollution and pesticide risks. For a copy of the catalogue, "Partnerships in Preventing Pollution: A Catalogue of the Agency's Partnership Programs," contact Michelle Price at 202.260.3372 or Sheila Canavan at 202.260.8621. The catalogue is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/>

The project will also examine strategies for recycling electronics that have been used to date in Europe and the U. S. and then propose alternative management scenarios. A final recommendation will be made in August.

EPA recently awarded the RI Department of Environmental Management a \$236,000 JobsThrough Recycling grant to provide groundwork for a state-of-the-art disassembly and processing facility for discarded electronics and appliances in Rhode Island. The facility, which is expected to create between two and three dozen jobs, will provide a low or no cost recycling outlet for obsolete business equipment and small appliances.

And, later this year EPA plans to pilot several residential electronic equipment collection days, similar to hazardous waste collection days offered now by some municipalities. At least one of these national pilot projects will be in New England.



New Air Rule For Printers

EPA issued a final rule in May for the printing and publishing industry that will reduce emissions of air toxics, such as methanol, hexane and toluene, by 5200 tons annually from publication rotogravure printers, a 30 percent reduction from current levels, and 2100 tons annually from package-product rotogravure and wide-web flexographic printers, a 40 percent reduction from current levels. The rule, which affects about 200 facilities nationwide, demonstrates EPA's commitment to making pollution prevention an integral part of regulatory actions. The printing and publishing requirements allow for pollution prevention options, such as substitution of non-toxic materials for air toxics, instead of traditional "end-of-pipe" controls. The printing and publishing rule incorporates many principles of the EPA Common Sense Initiative. The Initiative, launched by EPA in 1994, involves an examination of six industries, including printing and publishing, in which the Agency works with industry, environmental and public interest groups, and state and local regulators to improve the environment cost-effectively. The rule includes flexible compliance options, emphasizes pollution prevention measures, and contains simplified record-keeping and reporting requirements.

The rule is accessible through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at 919.541.5742 (backup number for access problems is 919.541.5384) under "Recently Signed Rules" on the TTN's Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board. For further information on the rule, contact David Salman at 919.541.0859.

Fax-Back Service Offered Through EPA's Office of Solid Waste

To facilitate access to EPA's Office of Solid Waste guidance regarding Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations, a fax-back service system has been implemented. The system is a publicly-accessible service that enables users to receive selected materials by calling the system from their fax machines. Once a document is selected the system automatically sends the information to the requestor's fax machine. Copies of instructions can be obtained through the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1.800.424.9346 or 703.412.9810.

Expanded Right-to-Know Program Upheld in Court Decision

In the first major challenge to EPA's stronger and expanded Community Right-to-Know program, a federal court has ruled in favor of EPA's position against a challenge from the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

Under the Right-to-Know program, companies must report various chemicals they release into the environment. In November 1994, EPA nearly doubled the list of toxic chemicals for which reporting is required to 615. CMA and other chemical industry groups challenged the legality of that list expansion, seeking to curtail the public's access to information on toxic chemicals.

Reporting on the additional 286 chemicals added by EPA will begin this year. The Agency also plans to expand the number of facilities covered by the program.

AROUND THE REGION

IBM-Essex Junction, VT, is the second company in New England selected to participate in EPA's Project XL (EXcellence in Leadership). Project XL offers regulatory flexibility allowing businesses and communities to test innovative environmental strategies.

As described in their Project XL application, upon public approval IBM will test an alternative treatment technology for isopropyl alcohol, a cleaning waste from its computer micro-chip manufacturing facility in Essex Junction.

Isopropyl alcohol is one of several low toxicity cleaning agents used by IBM to re-place chlorinated solvents in its manufacturing operations. Concentrated isopropyl alcohol, due to its flammability, is regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act which prescribes treatment by incineration with a destruction efficiency of 99.9999%.

The law allows for alternative technologies to be used provided that equivalent treatment results are achieved. IBM forecasts that treatment through its advanced on-

site wastewater treatment facility will achieve a 99% destruction level.

The VT Department of Environmental Conservation as well as leading Vermont environmentalists are working with EPA throughout this project.

For more information about the IBM-Essex Junction project contact Andy Miniuks of the NEEATeam. For more information about Project XL contact George Hawkins of EPA Region 1, New England at 617.565.9125.

THE NEW FACE OF EPA-NEW ENGLAND

A little under a year ago, EPA Regional Administrator John DeVillars unveiled the new look of the New England office. Gone are the traditional and separate offices of air, water and waste. In its place is a more streamlined, results oriented organization that makes greater use of smart economics and strong partnerships.

Permit and monitoring programs for water, air, pesticides and toxics, and hazardous waste management have been consolidated in the new Office of Ecosystem Protection. And the Office of Environmental Stewardship, which houses the region's enforcement program, has taken on a new role and outlook—providing compliance and pollution prevention assistance. The 40 people working in Stewardship's Office of Assistance and Pollution Prevention comprise the largest environmental technical assistance office in the country. This office houses the NEEATeam, Project XL, ELP and other assistance programs. The staff are helping businesses and municipalities come into—and go beyond—compliance. Upcoming issues of "Pollution Prevention & the Bottom Line" will focus on the projects that the office is involved with. Stay tuned.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS HAILED

In early May, John DeVillars, EPA's administrator for New England, honored 20 businesses and non-profits for superior environmental performance under the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP).

ELP is the first regional voluntary program to reward participants who agree to achieve greater protection of the environment than what the law requires. Incentives offered to ELP recipients include multi-media facility permits, enforcement amnesty, reduced inspections, and public recognition. Recognized were:

Connecticut: Chesebrough-Ponds USA Co., Clinton; Petroleum Heat & Power Co., Canton & East Hartford; U.S.P.S. Vehicle Maintenance Facility, Hartford; The United Illuminating Co., New Haven; and Whyco Chromium Co., Thomaston.

Maine: International Paper Androscoggin Mill, Jay; and Maine Energy Recovery Co., Biddeford.

Massachusetts: Crittendon Hastings House, Boston; Digital Equipment Corp., Maynard; E G & G Electro-Optics, Salem; Lockheed Martin Corp., Pittsfield; Spalding Sports Worldwide, Chicopee; Texas Instruments Materials & Control Group, Attleboro; and Veryfine Products, Westford.

New Hampshire: Sanders, Lockheed Martin Co., Nashua.

Rhode Island: Cranston Print Works Co., Cranston.

Vermont: Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington; and IBM, Essex Junction.

ELP participants commit to a one-year project, in which a business or non-profit offers its proven environmental compliance strategies and pollution prevention knowledge to industry colleagues. For more information about the ELP contact Gina Snyder of EPA Region 1, New England at 617.565.9452.

NET NEWS

Try these Internet sites to access pollution prevention information!

EnvironSenSe, a joint project of the U.S. EPA and the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, contains numerous links to federal and state pollution prevention (P2) related web sites. You can link to Department of Energy and Department of Defense P2 databases and state and regional P2 programs. And you have the ability to search for text anywhere in the site. Access:

<http://es.inel.gov/>

Finishing.com, "the home page of the finishing industry," contains information on surface finishing. An on-line equivalent of a trade magazine, this site is a clearing-house for information related to anodizing, conversion coating, electroplating, phosphatizing, powder coating and the allied surface finishing arts. Some features of the site include: a list of suppliers to the finishing industry with information on the products/services provided, finishing specific software, and an on-line technical library, with articles such as "20 Ways to Cut Water Usage in Plating Shops." Access:

<http://www.finishing.com/>

EPA Region 1's **1996 State of the New England Environment Report** is available online with information on how your activities contribute to environmental protection. Access:

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/soe/>

NEEATeam ROSTER

Municipalities

Jack Healey 617.565.3542
HEALEY.JACK@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Charles Conway 617.565.3517
CONWAY.CHARLES@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Metal Finishing

Linda Darveau 617.565.4993
DARVEAU.LINDA@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Joan Jouzaitis 617.565.9009
JOUZAITIS.JOAN@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Computers & Electronics

Christine Bonica 617.565.3251
BONICA.CHRISTINE@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Andrew Miniuks 617.565.3049
MINIUKS.ANDREW@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Printing

Anne Leiby 617.565.4974
LEIBY.ANNE@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Sally Mansur 617.565.1378
MANSUR.SALLY@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

General Assistance

Mary Dever 617.565.9408
DEVER.MARY@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Lee MacMichael 617.565.9230
MACMICHAEL.LEE@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Team Leaders

Abby Swaine 617.565.4523
SWAINE.ABBY@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV
Mark Mahoney 617.565.1155
MAHONEY.MARK@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

To be added to the P2 & the Bottom Line mailing list or to notify us of a change of address please contact:

Chris Jendras 617.565.3283
JENDRAS.CHRIS@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Our mailing address is:	Toll free assistance line:
NEEATeam	1.800.90NEEAT
EPA Region 1, New England	(1.800.906.3328)
SPN	
J.F.K. Federal Building	Fax: 617.565.4939
Boston, MA 02203	



Region 1, New England

NEEATeam
EPA Region 1, New England
SPN
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

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